



26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: Traffic and Parking

I am once again writing to you to share my concerns around the traffic and parking around Avanti Fields School. This morning there has been a traffic incident along Thurmaston Lane; thankfully no one was seriously injured, however, one young person will be seeking medical attention.

Police were called to the scene, though the incident will likely be resolved through insurance for the parties involved. Should you have any information regarding the incident, please use our website contact form <https://avanti.org.uk/avantifields/contact-us/> and select Concern/Issue.

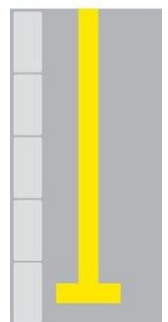
Periodically this year, parents would have seen school staff outside of the school gates at both Furrow View and Thurmaston Lane requesting that parents follow the traffic restrictions in place. Although our statutory duty ends at the school gate, we do this in the **interests of pupil safety**. Unfortunately, there have been times where school staff have been verbally abused or outright ignored by our parents.

## Traffic restrictions that are in place around the school

- **Zig-zag road markings** outside the Thurmaston Lane school gate  
“You must not wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers, on school entrance markings” (Highway Code rule 238)



- **Single yellow line** either side of the zig-zag road markings on Thurmaston Lane and along the length of Furrow View  
“You must not wait or park on yellow lines during times of operation shown on nearby time plates” (Highway Code rule 238)
- If you have to stop on the roadside:
  - “do not park facing the traffic flow”
  - “you must ensure you do not hit anyone when you open your door. Check for cyclists or other traffic by looking around and using your mirrors”
  - “it is safer for your passengers (especially children) to get out of the vehicle on the side next to the kerb” (Highway Code rule 239)
- Do not stop or park:
  - “near a school entrance”
  - “anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services”
  - “on a bend” (Highway Code rule 243)





## Do you have to drive to school?

Most children live close enough to walk or cycle to school. Please consider this option. It's often faster than driving in the rush-hour and looking for a safe and legal place to park. Walking is good exercise for children... and for you! Additional benefits include significantly better air quality outside cars (especially if you use quieter back streets) and children arrive better prepared to settle in class and learn after an active, stimulating and energetic journey to school.

If you really must drive, allow time to park safely and considerately, and do not block entrances, driveways, or junctions - you may have to park some distance away from the school and walk the rest. Morning arrival and afternoon departure of pupils inevitably results in traffic jams near schools so allow plenty of time for your journey. Try walking or cycling one day, it may be faster!

## Considerate driving at Avanti Fields School

- **The school car park operates a one-way system, and a 5mph speed limit**
- We kindly ask that **all secondary parents** use park and stride from Tesco when dropping off/collecting (unless you have a valid parking pass due to medical/other needs)
- Parking on school site should be in the bays only, and only blue badge holders should park in the marked disabled bays
- Drop and go parking on the school site should be considerate; drive to the furthest point possible before stopping to drop off your child
- Ensure children exit the vehicle on the kerb side when using drop and go parking on the school site
- Do not drop off/collect children on restricted areas along Furrow View and Thurmaston Lane
- **Parking restrictions apply on both roads between 7:30am – 9:30am and 2:30pm – 4:30pm**
- Do not complete a multi-point turn along Furrow View or Thurmaston Lane (as this only increases the delay in traffic being able to clear the area)

We want to continue to work with our parents to ensure that travel to school is safe for all involved.

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Bardsley  
Principal